IL CAFFÈ

Caitlin Rosazza
Translation Studies Concentration
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Tahar Lamri

-Born in Algiers in 1958


-Since 1986, Lamri has lived in Ravenna, Italy

-Studied Law, specializing in International Relations

-Works as an editor for Città Metricea, an intercultural newspaper based in Ravenna.

-Focuses on foreign and migrant literature
Translation Process

- Choosing the right text
- Quick read-through of the text
- Start translating: Rough draft
- Re-working of translation: sentence structure, word choice
- Collaboration with Professor Bellesia: more revision
- Final Edits

My senses agitated/in agitation, I try/attempt to stick/plaster my forehead to the window, banging/smashing my head against specie? (a type of?/a kind of?) protruding/sticking out jamb?

My senses heightened, I try and stick my forehead to the window, banging my head against the protruding frame.
Themes

- Migration
- Identity
- Memory and Nostalgia
- Family
- Culture and Traditions
Conflicting Identities

“My mother brings the coffee. I almost spit out the first sip on the rug. It’s sweet, and I had learned to drink the insolent, bitter Italian espresso.”

“I had a son… He went away one day, twenty years ago… They came to tell me that he died abroad, but I did not want to believe it. Today I know it to be true”.

“Before leaving I was proud of having had the strength to cut all ties to the past and then the cold reality of seeing this heavy piece of equipment, is a sharp contrast with my warm memories.”
Cultural Context

-use of Arabic words

“Prendo Lham lehlou, carne di manzo addolcita con sciroppo, prugne e mele.”
“I take some of the Lham lehlou, beef sweetened with syrup, prunes and apples.”

“Quando torno nel salotto, sul tappeto c’era una ma’ida – un tavolo basso e rotondo – imbandito con la mia infanzia.” “When I return to the sitting room, on the rug I find a ma’ida – a short, round table – laden with food from my childhood.”
Translation within a Translation

Passages from Pellegrino Artusi

La Scienza in Cucina e L'arte di Mangiar Bene, 1891

(Science in the Kitchen and the Art of Eating Well)

“La cucina è una bricconcella; spesso e volentieri fa disperare, ma dà anche piacere, perché quelle volte che riuscite o che avete superata un difficoltà, provate compiacimento e cantate vittoria”

“Cooking is like a little rascal; it will very often drive you crazy, but will also give you pleasure, because the times when you succeed or you manage to overcome an obstacle, you taste satisfaction and sing victory.”
Translation Challenges

-Title → Il Caffè?

-Poetic Language and Imagery

“Le file di palme ancorate alla terra rossa ai bordi dell’autostrada laggiù ammiccano e mi invitano con le larghe chiome e da quest’altezza immagino il fruscio dei rami al vento. Mi sento sospeso come una piuma ma fra poco avrò i piedi, finalmente, per terra.”
“The rows of palm trees anchored in the red soil along the edges of the highway below wink and welcome me with broad foliage and from this height I imagine the rustling of the branches in the wind. I feel suspended like a feather but soon I will have my feet, finally, planted firmly on the ground.

-Colloquial Phrases

“quella signora dai capelli color menopausa”-- “the woman with the fake red hair”
Going Forward...

- Contact Tahar Lamri
- Final Revision
- Reflection
- Publish?
- More translations!